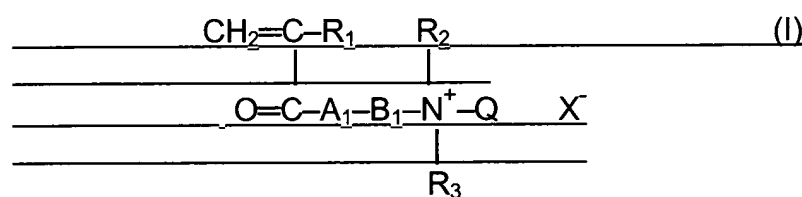


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of paper which comprises;

- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibers, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aid comprising at least 0.001% by weight of a cationic organic polymer based on dry stock substance, the cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ and R₃ are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A₁ is O or NH, B₁ is an alkylene group of from 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is benzyl, and X⁻ is an anionic counterion; and

- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of ~~at least 3.5~~ between 2.4 and 10 mS/cm.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 5.0 mS/cm.

3. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is a vinyl addition polymer comprising in polymerized form one or more monomers comprising at least one monomer having an aromatic group.

4. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

5. **Cancelled.**

6. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer has a weight average molecular weight of at least 1,000,000.

7. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the cationic organic polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture comprising from 5 to 20 mole% of cationic monomer having an aromatic group and from 95 to 80 mole% of other copolymerizable monomers.

8. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises anionic inorganic particles.

9. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are silica-based particles or bentonite.

10. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are aluminium-modified silica-based particles.

11. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.

12. **(Original)** The process of claim 8, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises a low molecular weight cationic organic polymer.

13. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the drainage and retention aid further comprises an aluminium compound.

14. **Cancelled.**

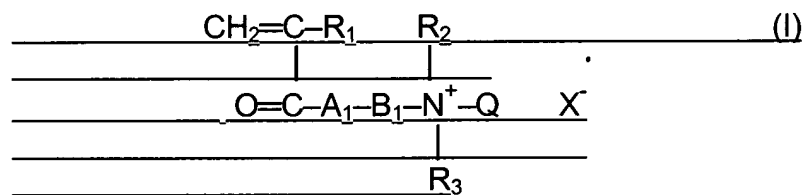
15. **(Original)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension comprises recycled fibers.

16 -20. **Cancelled.**

21. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a content of di- and multivalent cations of at least 300 ppm.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of paper which comprises;

- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension a drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ and R₃ are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A₁ is O or NH, B₁ is an alkylene group of from 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is benzyl, and X⁻ is an anionic counterion and anionic microparticulate material;

- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity ~~of at least 2.0~~ between 2.4 and 10 mS/cm and obtaining a wet web of paper and white water, recirculating white water and introducing fresh water to form a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers, to be dewatered, wherein the amount of fresh water introduced is less than 20 tons per ton of dry paper produced.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 22, wherein less than 10 tons of fresh water is introduced per ton of dry paper produced.

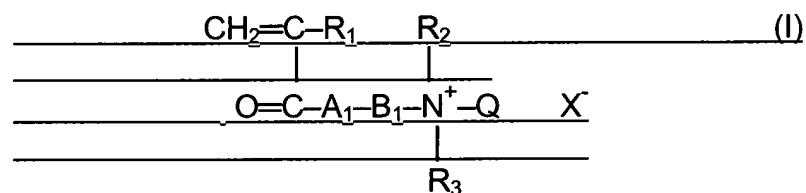
24. **(Previously Presented).** The process of claim 22, wherein the anionic microparticulate material is anionic organic particles.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 22, wherein the anionic microparticulate material is anionic inorganic particles.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The process of claim 25, wherein the anionic inorganic particles are silica-based particles.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the production of paper which comprises;

- (i) providing a suspension containing cellulosic fibres, and optional fillers,
- (ii) adding to said suspension drainage and retention aids comprising a cationic organic polymer having an aromatic group represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R₁ is H or CH₃, R₂ and R₃ are each an alkyl group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, A₁ is O or NH, B₁ is an alkylene group of from 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a hydroxy propylene group, Q is benzyl, and X⁻ is an anionic counterion and anionic organic particles; and

- (iii) forming and dewatering the obtained suspension on a wire, wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of ~~at least 2.0~~ between 5.5 and 10 mS/cm.

28. **Cancelled.**

29. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim 27, 1 wherein the suspension that is dewatered on the wire has a conductivity of at least 7.5 mS/cm

30. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim ~~27~~, 8 wherein the anionic organic particles are cross-linked anionic vinyl addition polymers.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim ~~27~~, 11 wherein the cationic organic polymer is an acrylamide-based polymer.

32-48. **Cancelled.**